THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) During the last fortnight on 6th February, 2008, there was heavy fog at IGI Airport which resulted in CAT III operations for about 4 hours *i.e.* 0610 IST — 1010 IST. Fourteen (14) flights operated during this period and delay was from 7 minutes to 1 hour 41 minutes. Three departures were rescheduled. Some airlines do not maintain details related to delay due to 'landing restrictions' or late clearance for take off. It is, therefore, not possible to compute loss on this count.

(c) to (e) Fog formation is a natural phenomenon, which occurs world wide due to very low temperature near the earth surface, resulting in low visibility conditions affecting smooth aircraft operations. No standard and effective technologies are available to disperse the fog. However, in order to ensure continuity of operations during fog and low visibility conditions, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has prescribed use of standard equipments/ facilities and procedures such as CAT II/CAT III ILS. Such facilities and procedures are used at most of the airports around the world, including India.

(f) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range (RVR) of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with the aircraft and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions so as to reduce delays.

Development of sites under Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Scheme

*13. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hoshiarpur in Punjab has been identified to be developed as tourist destination and Central assistance of Rs. 4 crores has been sanctioned towards that end in January, 2008;

(b) if so, whether Government would also consider similar sites in tribal and historically significant districts in Vidarbha like Yavatmal, to be brought on the tourist map under the Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Scheme;

(c) if so, what are the precise criteria specified under this Scheme; and

(d) whether this Scheme is operated *suo motu* by Government or periodic consultations with State Governments are also held?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 397.89 lakh has been sanctioned to the Government of Punjab for the project — "Integrated Development of Hoshiarpur as Tourist Destination" during the current financial year.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

Project proposals received from the State Government/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *inter-se priority* and funds released subject to availability under respective head.